



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Human Security Network

As delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission Douglas Davidson
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 16, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We, too, would like to also welcome Foreign Minister Ferrero-Waldner to the Permanent Council today. And we would like to join the European Union, in the beginning of our intervention here, by thanking the Foreign Minister International Capacity for the newly renovated facilities in which we have the pleasure of meeting today.

It is only appropriate that the first regularly scheduled Permanent Council meeting of the year address the concept of human security, a concept that the OSCE and the Human Security Network share, and a concept that places the protection of human rights, rule of law and democratic institutions at the heart of security.

Indeed, there is much overlap between the problems that the Human Security Network and the OSCE are attempting to address. These include such issues as small arms and light weapons, the exploitation of children, transnational organized crime, conflict prevention, human rights education, and the development of civil society. More could be done as well on other issues in which your organization is involved, including the improvement of public awareness about HIV/AIDs.

The OSCE, too, is attempting to react to, and to deal appropriately with, new threats, which increasingly blur the distinction between criminal and political violence.

This year our organization will be addressing Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century. We will likewise be updating an Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Persons, which will, like our Porto Ministerial Decision on the subject, focus more attention on addressing the needs of trafficked children.

We are beginning discussions of this year's human dimension events as well. We are hopeful that human rights education will be incorporated into all of our discussions this year. It is, as the Foreign Minister rightly points out, a powerful instrument for preventing human rights abuses and for providing a basis for good governance.

We look forward to future exchanges of information between our two organizations, especially on human rights education, an area in which the OSCE has vast expertise.

Again, let me thank the Foreign Minister for her very informative briefing on the activities of the Human Security Network.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.